



## August 2022 Update

The public event took place at Hermitage Primary School on Saturday 25 June from 10am to 4pm. Despite social media publicity and delivery of flyers to over 700 households in the village, only 35 people attended. The Steering Group is most grateful to those residents who took time out to come and inspect the work that's been done so far and to share their views.

We were lucky enough to have a few copies of the most recent iteration of the emerging Plan which a few of the visitors took time to read through and comment on.

Feedback from the event and comments received via email and social media have all been collated now and taken into account on the current draft version of the Plan.

Since my last update, our technical support partners, AECOM have completed their first draft of a bespoke Design Code which, based on what residents have previously told us, provides comprehensive guidance on how new developments should be designed and how they should look. The emphasis is very much on using sustainable materials, eco-friendly construction and designs that help to preserve the rural feel of our village. Work is also continuing on liaising with organisations exploring Active Travel Route (ATR) options between Hermitage and Newbury and gathering evidence to support creating Designated Green Spaces, to help protect the smaller green areas scattered throughout the village that are so important to us all. This evidence, added to resident feedback has enabled SG to develop policies which aim to support the Vision established from the outset.

Our consultant, Navigus, is now pulling together various loose ends in order to finalise the draft NDP so it can be submitted to Hermitage Parish Council (HPC) for approval in early September.

Following formal approval, HPC will publish the document and hold a Public Consultation this Autumn where every resident will be able to have their final say before it goes onto West Berkshire Council (WBC - our Local Planning Authority) who will then hold a further Public Consultation and referendum. After due process, if all goes well and the Plan is accepted, final approval will be given by WBC next Summer, 2023 and our Plan will then have legal status.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, our Hermitage Neighbourhood Development Plan will have received formal approval from HPC and the initial consultation stage will be starting.

**We need as many residents as possible to support this Plan.**

**Without more support, residents won't have a say in how Hermitage will develop and look over the coming years! Others will make these decisions.**

If more people support the plan and it becomes adopted, as a bonus, Hermitage will receive from WBC an increase in the percentage of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from the current 15% to 25%. The community has a say in how these monies should best be spent to provide/enhance community facilities for the benefit of all.

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